

# **Title of report: The delivery and management of Herefordshire Council's capital projects - response from Scrutiny Management Board**

**Meeting: Scrutiny Management Board**

**Meeting date: 16 December 2024**

**Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

## **Wards affected**

All Wards

## **Purpose**

To agree a response and recommendations following Scrutiny Management Board's scrutiny of the management of Herefordshire Council's capital projects.

## **Recommendation(s)**

**That:**

- a) The committee agree the letter and recommendations attached as appendix 1.**

## **Alternative options**

1. The committee could choose to edit the letter before it is sent, or could choose to not send the letter. This is not recommended as the committee has worked collaboratively to produce the attached draft.

## **Key considerations**

2. At Scrutiny Management Board's previous committee meeting, which took place on 28 October 2024, the committee considered how Herefordshire Council ensure the effective delivery of capital projects.
3. Following its work, the committee agreed that rather than produce a set of recommendations in the meeting, it would instead draft a letter accompanying its recommendations. It further agreed that it would agree a final draft of this letter, along with any suggested recommendations, at its next formal meeting.
4. Attached as Appendix 2 to this report are the committee's draft letter to the chief executive, along with the recommendations that:
  - a. The executive should take steps to improve all members' understanding of the capital programme and individual projects. In particular:
    - i. the fact that information on projects is made available on the Intranet around individual projects could be highlighted to members,
    - ii. the executive should provide information to members on the revised governance processes around projects including showing what types of issues are escalated at each stage.

## **Community impact**

5. Effective scrutiny enables the committee to reflect community concern, one of the four purposes of scrutiny as outlined by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

## **Environmental impact**

6. This report contains no direct environmental impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline their potential environmental impact.

## **Equality duty**

7. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. This report contains no direct equality impacts. However the reports and issues that the committee will consider may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline the any associated equality impacts for committee consideration.

## **Resource implications**

8. This report constitutes part of the typical function of this committee. There are no discrete resource implications in considering this item.

## **Legal implications**

9. The remit of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 3 section 4 of the constitution and the role of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 2 article 6 of the constitution.
10. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the council to deliver the scrutiny function.

## **Risk management**

11. There are no risks identified in the committee agreeing this letter.

## **Consultees**

12. Members of Scrutiny Management Board, the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment were consulted in drafting this response.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – The delivery and management of Herefordshire Council's capital projects - response from Scrutiny Management Board

## **Background papers**

None